Hispanic Theatre dates all the way back to the 16th century, originating in Cuba, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. Chicano Theatre is a facet of Hispanic Theatre, but Chicano Theatre focuses specifically on issues within the Hispanic community, their goal being to educate the wider population. Chicano Theatre originated from Los Angeles and San Francisco, but it spread to Texas and Chicago once the nation began expanding (during the industrial revolution).

Then there is Puerto Rican American Theatre, referred to as Nuyorican Theatre. Puerto Rican Theatre differs from both Cuban and Chicano Theatre because Puerto Ricans aren’t immigrants. Puerto Rico is a part of the USVI, meaning that native Puerto Ricans can return to their home island. This is a Theatre that focuses on the culture from the mainland vs the homeland. Homeland Theatre blew up during the 1940’s through the 80’s, and this influenced the mainland Theatre heavily.

Cuban American theatre began during the 19thc. in Tampa and New York City. The beginning of Cuban American Theatre occurred because of Cuban blackface. However, it expanded after the Cuban Revolution in 1959. It began to focus on themes of communism and lashed out at Fidel Castro. Modern Cuban American Theatre now focuses on how being a Cuban American affects their identity.